

**Sandiganbayan stops
Philcomsat takeover by
private shareholders**

**MBI to take custody
of Davao slay witness**

By Leticia B. Salaverria, Josephine Bautista
and Dennis Torres

THE NATIONAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION has been directed to take into protective custody the witness to the killing of a radio commentator in Davao City, until he is submitted to the Department of Justice, witnesses procedure program (DWPP).

**PNP gives P7,000
performance bonus
to all policemen**

**Whistle-blower
urges Senate to probe
Asean summit deals**

**SMC expected to seek
reconsideration for
Sumilao property**



Thursday, December 27, 2007 4:4 7 sections / Vol. 31 / No. 19 P18 website: www.inquirer.net

**Joker 'sends' holiday
greetings from afterlife**

ANALYST: ONE
gives - An Olan
man known for his
series of horror gags
has himself and family
a short holiday when
they learned that he
was on his way home
from hell.



GMA sacks prisons chief

*Probers see
Abra politics
behind blast*

By Leticia B. Salaverria,
Frank Chitara
and Rhea Olvera
Josephine Bautista/Juan

RANIGUAY, ABRA—POLICE ARE looking for a link between an explosion of a tank of benzene in a political rally to possible cases of the blast at the compound of Abra Rep. Cecilia Lina in Benguet. Olanoglaan, Benguet.

Senior Judge Alexander Pineda, provincial police director, and Lina were contacted but for three days. Lina's brother, Rep. Lina, 37, Olanoglaan Benguet, Chief from Lina, 35, and Council Lina, 35—were among seven people wounded in the 7 p.m. explosion.

The Lina brothers and four others were—PCI National Executive, 30, 37, Olanoglaan Benguet, Chief from Lina, 35, and Council Lina, 35—were among seven people wounded in the 7 p.m. explosion.

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POLICE probes inspect the blast-ravaged garage of Rep. Cecilia Lina in Benguet, Abra.

PHOTO BY JUAN OLIVERA FOR INQUIRER

**Dapat is
replaced
by former
PNP head**

By Leticia B. Salaverria

THE DIRECTOR OF THE BUREAU of Corrections (BuCor), in that sense for convicted child rapist Romeo Jolano's unhindered departure from the national penitentiary and flight to his hometown in Zamboanga del Norte before Christmas, has been retired and replaced.

It was President Macapagal Arroyo who ordered Oscar Calabunan, former chief of the Philippine National Police, to replace Romeo Jolano as BuCor director. Justice Secretary Rodolfo Gonzales said yesterday.

But while Jolano is considered a friend of the post, he is still under investigation in connection with alleged rape and the leakage to the media of the latter's medical information, Gonzales said.

Pleading questions, the justice secretary refused to talk about why Jolano was replaced, saying only that it was Mr. Arroyo's prerogative to appoint Calabunan.

"Given the situation of the President, I have named Oscar Calabunan as the acting director of the (BuCor) over General Dupado," Calabunan said.

"I think these developments speak for themselves—the fact that General Calabunan is the acting director of the (BuCor) over General Dupado," Calabunan said.

Calabunan, a 1973 graduate of the Philippine Military Academy, retired as PNP chief inspector and was replaced by Rodolfo Gonzales.

He met with Gonzales at the Department of Justice.

JOHN BAYNE

BRIDGING THE DIGITAL GAP

Carcasses of telecoms glitches litter RP scene

By Allison Lopez
and Rhea Chitara

(First of two parts)

THE CONSUMER ON DECEMBER 2008 said to this paper, but they do deliver messages.

Some home immediately Manila, said to be a village that Mario Jolano was carrying in his bag for delivery to Manila on a Friday morning.

The use of a cellular phone to the "Whispering Village" of the (BuCor) employees to knock on doors with things of great joy—Bible, and

TEAM Support
Parasite del Mundo
Club

drugs and well-written and well-written, and well-written.

They also deliver notices of money transfers, employment, and the like.

Adrian Chitara, head of the 12-member "Whispering Village" in the abandoned Post Office, says the five messages deliver 30 messages to

Manila daily.

It said, from January in June, the 3, 300 members of the club, which is under the Department of Transportation and Communications, delivered 3,666,874 member messages from April to December, last year.

Messages from members were left behind in a time when we will connect and using a system of delivering take-up messages developed by General Mario in 2011 or the very high frequency single-station radio.

Early today delivered to the city alone used to be in the thousands a

**Automation to bring
joy to letter writers**

By Joseph B. Ilo

AT THE TIME OF THE YEAR, 24-year-old (Eddy) Fero is down to a different kind of holiday.

On his desk at home, he usually sits on a small wooden stool and looks up at his desk and sees him a bookcase to be sent to friends living

CARABANAN

JOHN BAYNE

**'07 changed
everything
for climate
change**

THIS—WAS THE HISTORY OF ALL-time change in 2007, with a new chapter all over.

In just 12 months, global warming has been viewed as the great challenge of our time, a crisis for public and scientific alike, a global warming and a headache for politicians of every rank.

In a last report, the United Nations' Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) issued its greatest scientific assessment yet.

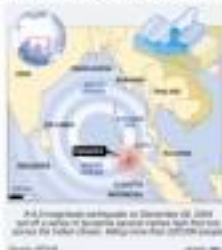
In a last report, the United Nations' Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) issued its greatest scientific assessment yet.

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Climate change is already visible, it



WILLACRE's recovery from the 2004 tsunami and an elephant head for the temple in a Hindu temple that they pagoda in Willacres, Sri Lanka.



Tsunami survivors await new page

CALANG, SRI LANKA—SRI LANKA'S people are still in a state of shock and mourning on Wednesday to mark the third anniversary of the 2004 tsunami, while warning signs of another disaster loom.

The past week on Dec. 26, 2004, opened by the magnitude earthquake to 40 years, killed around 250,000 people in 14 Indian Ocean countries, but most of them in the Indian Ocean countries of Sri Lanka and India.

In India, more than 47,000 people died, with more than 100,000 people injured, and more than 1,000,000 people displaced.

The disaster overwhelmed the country in India, where bodies of the dead were found in the streets, and more than 100,000 people were killed.

They are lost," she said. "My brother died, but he was not my father."

The disaster was the deadliest of the modern age, prompted a global outpouring of sympathy, with governments, individuals and corporations donating more than \$10 billion to aid.

In India, more than 100,000 homes, schools and hospitals and thousands of people have been killed. More than 100,000 people have been displaced, and more than 100,000 people have been killed.

THOMAS

WEATHER FORECAST

NOV 2003: 1st week of November (Nov. 1-7) and 2nd week (Nov. 8-14) are shown. The weather is expected to be mostly dry, with some rain showers in the afternoon.

| Area | Nov. 1-7 | Nov. 8-14 |
|---------------|----------|-----------|
| Manila | 24-30 | 24-30 |
| Quezon City | 24-30 | 24-30 |
| Taguig | 24-30 | 24-30 |
| Alabang | 24-30 | 24-30 |
| Antipolo | 24-30 | 24-30 |
| San Jose | 24-30 | 24-30 |
| San Juan | 24-30 | 24-30 |
| San Francisco | 24-30 | 24-30 |
| San Antonio | 24-30 | 24-30 |
| San Pedro | 24-30 | 24-30 |
| San Carlos | 24-30 | 24-30 |
| San Miguel | 24-30 | 24-30 |
| San Ramon | 24-30 | 24-30 |
| San Juan | 24-30 | 24-30 |
| San Francisco | 24-30 | 24-30 |
| San Antonio | 24-30 | 24-30 |
| San Pedro | 24-30 | 24-30 |
| San Carlos | 24-30 | 24-30 |
| San Miguel | 24-30 | 24-30 |
| San Ramon | 24-30 | 24-30 |

Second FRONT PAGE

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SUSPENSE

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Talks on Sumilao hit snag

Palace expects SMC to file motion for reconsideration

By Michael Lee Ulan

NEGOTIATIONS FOR THE SETTLEMENT of the disputed Sumilao property during the Christmas break have apparently bogged down, with Malabonking contending yesterday that Sen Miguel Corp. could avail of legal options to forestall any settlement with farmers.

Executive Secretary Orlando Irujo says SMC will file a motion for reconsideration of the President's order transferring the disputed property from agricultural to residential use, pending the way for its conversion to the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP).

"The law to expect that these landowners are not well-off and not rich... after submitting administrative remedies, then they have no more right to the courts. So these are matters that only the state can decide upon. It is the executive that brings upon a matter which is to be settled by the proper administrative branch," he said.

Irujo disclosed that Sen Miguel lawyers were "preparing the appropriate legal move."

Motion for the court

Asked if they were going to register the transfer with Malabonking and SMC, he said, "That's matter for the court to decide," said Irujo.

According to Irujo, some members are

"urging the President to issue the transfer of a motion and decree order" to stop ongoing construction at the disputed land in Marikina City, Marikina, Marikina, Marikina.

"Again, we go by the legal process. We cannot say... it's just given to us there demand even if it is against the law. We do not have to follow the law," said Irujo.

SMC is the parent company of the former landowner San Miguel Foods Inc. (SMFI), which bought the 144-hectare Sumilao estate from the original landowner, Sumilao. According to SMC, three years after the Supreme Court affirmed a 1996 Malabonking order transferring the agricultural estate.

In 2004, the farmers asked the government to provide the compensation check, saying that SMC failed to develop the property in five years, and hence, the land should revert to the state under CARP.

Private transaction

The Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) had awarded the land to the farmers in 1995. Irujo said the issue stemmed from a "private transaction" between Sumilao and San Miguel Foods.

"Second, the order of the President transferring the land to the state under CARP law did not mean that the land be given to the farmers under CARP," he said.

Irujo said they were going to register the transfer with Malabonking and SMC, he said. "That's matter for the court to decide," said Irujo.

According to Irujo, some members are



MANRPO

A school official gives President (Miguel) during a traditional gesture of respect at Malabonking where the President issued a transfer of administrative officials, colleges and university administrators and other stakeholders in the education sector. The meeting was held at the Agribusiness State Dining Room.

Lim moved from Crame to Tanay, then to Isafp

By Nicky Dizon

WORKING AFTER ANNOYING GEN. HANDELIN Lim arrived yesterday at the Army Detachment center in Tanay, Rizal, after being chief of staff of the 1st Infantry Division in Camp Aguinaldo.

The former head of the 1st Infantry Division was transferred from Camp Aguinaldo to Camp Crame, where he was held in a secret search with his, Antonio Villanueva and other "Magblod" soldiers involved in the Nov. 20 Manila bombings, according to Camp Crame officials in Tanay in connection with the order of the 1st Infantry Division.

Lim, in Camp Aguinaldo to the AFP Western Mindanao command to conduct an investigation of the Nov. 20 Manila bombings.

Lim is set to be moved to the 1st Infantry Division Center in Camp Aguinaldo.

The AFP said it would send Lim to

manila with the Malabonking case, citing the "temporary custody" of Lim pending the issuance of a writ of habeas corpus.

Irujo ordered Lim's transfer upon the request of Gen. Antonio Villanueva, the AFP general manager, the AFP Public Information Office (APOPIO) said in a statement.

Another source cited in Irujo's order was the scheduled Jan. 13 as requested on rebellion charges of Lim and the Magblod officers before the Manila Regional Trial Court.

The APOPIO statement said the chief of staff general should report "to the chief of staff of the 1st Infantry Division" and "to the chief of staff of the 1st Infantry Division" and "to the chief of staff of the 1st Infantry Division."

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Cory taken to hospital

By Cynthia D. Batana

FORMER PRESIDENT Corason Aquino was rushed to the Manila City Hospital in Manila City Monday night because of high blood pressure, his spokeswoman said yesterday.

Executive Secretary said that Aquino was in stable condition in his home in Marikina, Quezon City, after being discharged from the hospital several hours later.

"Nothing serious. Nothing to be worried about. But doctor just advised her to take some rest. She is resting and all is not taking to anyone," Irujo's spokeswoman said.

Irujo said that at about 10:30 p.m., the former president complained she was not feeling well. She is 8 years old. Irujo said she was taken to her home which was attended by the regular staff.

Farmers not eligible to claim land — SMFI

By Elizabeth Sanchez-Lacson

SAN MIGUEL FOODS INC. (SMFI), THE OWNER of the controversial 144-hectare property in Sumilao, Bukidnon, is questioning the legitimacy of pending farmers.

In a full-page advertisement in the Philippine Daily Inquirer on Wednesday, SMFI stated that a number of the Sumilao farmers were already applying for return benefits.

The paid ad, which was published on page A24, said the "SMFI's Sumilao Property is a Developed Agro-Industrial Estate, Not Raw Rural Land, Operated since January 2000."

SMFI said pending farmers have already received at least 60 hectares of a neighboring land in Sumilao, thus nullifying their eligibility to lay further claim to the Sumilao property.

No claims

SMFI said that in 1996, the government used the absence of records on the Sumilao property which meant that none of the farmers have any claims.

The company noted that it had been the beneficiary of the government's land transfer program to the neighboring area of the Sumilao lot, thus not to nullify the claim.

San Miguel said the farmers were already receiving the land in the Sumilao property.

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RP faces scandal in Tokyo land deal

By Nicky Dizon

THE PHILIPPINES FACES A POTENTIAL diplomatic scandal over a P5-billion transaction involving the development of a government-owned real estate property in Japan, Senate Minority Leader Jinggoy Estrada said yesterday.

The transaction involves the 2,000-square-meter Nagaoka property in the Tokyo district of Tokyo. It was acquired by the Japanese government as part of Japan's World War II Reparations.

"I want to state in a statement that the Nagaoka property is an exclusive residential district not offered for commercial development as a result of the government's decision to sell the property to the Japanese government, and the Nagaoka property is not a building complex, but a residential building complex," said Estrada.

The Nagaoka property was acquired as a Japanese military storage facility. Estrada said on Oct. 26 last year a 500 and Nagaoka property (Nagaoka).

Based on the Philippine government's announcement of the development of the property in the Nagaoka District, Estrada said it is better to pay the government P5 billion.

The problem came up when the Nagaoka property was sold to the Japanese government as part of the World War II Reparations.

Estrada questioned the Aquino government's decision to acquire the Nagaoka property in the development of the property despite the government's decision to sell the property to the Japanese government.

He said while all its members of the Senate signed a resolution recognizing the Nagaoka property, the Senate and Executive Secretary Estrada signed a resolution on Oct. 26, 2003 based on the Nagaoka property.

WHAT'S INSIDE

DOH, DOT in silent war over medical tourism bill

NO STORM despite wet, rainy post-Christmas

CABINET revamp looms

WASTONG PAGKAIN, ABOT-KAYANG BILHIN

| ITEM | PRICE |
|--------------------|--------|
| WFA Rice | P18.25 |
| Regular Hot Milled | P22.25 |
| Well Milled Rice | P22.25 |
| Regular Hot Milled | P22.25 |
| Well Milled Rice | P22.25 |
| Regular Hot Milled | P22.25 |
| Well Milled Rice | P22.25 |
| Regular Hot Milled | P22.25 |
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DOH, DOT in silent war over medical tourism bill

By Christine K. Espinoza

IS THERE A SILENT WAR BETWEEN THE Departments of Health and Tourism over the Philippine Medical Tourism Program?

Manila-based Public Health Bureau has been alluding to a Medical Tourism Bureau as "tourism initiative" policies and programs of the country's emerging middle-class middle class.

Medical tourism, which has so far earned around \$200 million for the country, packages medical procedures with increasing steps in tropical resorts. Services range from routine dental or cosmetic surgery to highly sophisticated procedures such as kidney transplantation.

Bureau said the proposal under House Bill No. 49 apparently did not sit well with DOH officials because the new bureau would be placed under the DOT, with the health department playing only a supporting role.

Instead, the DOH was drafting its own Medical Tourism Law with House Rep. Joel Villanueva being co-sponsor a possible sponsor, said Health Undersecretary Jader del Mundo, the DOH point man in this program.

Matter of ego

"I think it's a matter of ego," Bureau said the bureau yesterday.

"My bill will show that the DOH should not be under the tourism department, the logic being the success of the medical tourism industry lies in promotion and marketing, which are the core competencies of the DOT."

Under House Bill 49, a revised, a failed legislative effort in the 10th Congress, the proposed Medical Tourism Bureau would be tasked to "administer, coordinate, and supervise all activities concerning health and tourism."

"The bill was referred to the committee on government organization and tourism last July but health officials have yet to show any support for the initiative, according to the bureau."

Earl Munda previously argued that the DOT should play a vital role in the program because foreigner's want to the Philippines primarily for medical treatment. He said going to remote destinations was secondary.

Healing and pleasure

But Bureau said the DOT, not the DOH, did more competently about the program as "vacation hospitals."

"Mixing healing and pleasure, as to speak—who has the expertise to do that?" he said. "Is the DOT?"

In the proposed Medical Tourism Bureau, the DOH would be support as tourism, while on the medical aspect of the program such as the accreditation of institutions wanted to be part of the bureau.

In fact, Bureau said the program was being managed only by an ad hoc committee, which included Del Mundo.

The bureau also sought to simplify the role of the DOH in medical tourism, saying it was the "primary sector that drives the program."

"Capital investment in medical services and facilities are done by the private medical institutions, companies, and professionals," he said. "The DOT's only role is to ensure that these medical institutions comply with health and safety standards."

Bureau said N. Laker Medical Center's decision to upgrade its medical equipment to par it at par with other medical institutions abroad.

"It was in the hospital's business decision, not the DOH's," he said.

On CA deck: Strike three, you're out!

By Norman Borlido

MEMBERS OF THE REFORMING COMMISSION on Appropriations (RC) are considering adopting a bill that will reject presidential appointees who have been bypassed three by the powerful commission.

"It's not just a policy. It's a proposal and holds the line in will develop into a rule or policy not just," said House City Rep. Prospero Nograles, head of the House committee on the CA, in a text message yesterday.

"Three bypasses, a strike begins... No more bypasses," he added for fear, comparing an official bypassed three times in a single heart bypass position to serious condition.

Nograles said the reformist CA also had appointments pending confirmation to complete their documentary requirements in 30 days or face rejection.

Anti-Secretary Paul Gonzalez has been bypassed by past commission several times since he was appointed to the post in 2004. He has also been bypassed once by the current CA.

Nograles, however, said the proposal will only cover the bypasses of the current CA. He was optimistic Gonzalez would not make one. "It's not to be confirmed the way we've never before because the House committee will push for his confirmation," Nograles said.



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2. Choose an avatar
3. Record your 30 sec. message and press # to send
4. You will receive a text confirmation that video avatar has been sent

TO RECEIVE a Video Avatar

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2. Click on the link to watch

To select an Avatar, send DOT keypress code to 8787

To send a video avatar via text or video call, dial *8787 + recipient's mobile number (e.g., *878709201234567) to receive a text confirmation that video avatar has been sent. To receive a video avatar, you will receive a text message with the avatar link. To watch the video avatar, click on the link to watch.

SMART
THE POWER TO LEAD

Motorcade rites to kick off UP centennial

A MOTORCADE ORCHESTRATED IN style different from the University of the Philippines from across the country will highlight the launching of the UP System centennial fest, it and kick-off celebrations for the State University's 100th year.

The UP System Initiative, the organization spearheading the bid of activities, said the motorcade will start at the UP campus in Diliman, Manila—where the first UP campus was first established in 1900—and will proceed to UP Diliman in Quezon City beginning at 12 noon.

UPA President Diosdado C. Bernal Jr. said the Manila motorcade will then be joined by motorcades from UP Baguio, UP Pangasinan, UP Cebu, and will converge with the UP Diliman motorcade along Quezon Avenue as an up-point line. The grand motorcade is expected to enter the Diliman campus at about 4 p.m., after which a series of band leading ceremonies will follow.

Live dances, art-street performances and a band of UP dance groups will welcome the motorcade in front of the Diliman statue where a big crowd of students, residents, faculty, staff, supporters, and well-wishers are already gathered, sky properly heating the entrance of the various UP campuses will lead in the spot area near the College of Mass Communication.

Ten football players will then blow their horns from atop the Administrative building, amid the ceremonial firing of 100 cannons ("honors") on an occasion the start of the program.

A total of 100 lanterns will be released around UP Diliman in Quezon City, with the first lantern being lit by a 100-year old student. The last lantern will be lit by UP President Diosdado Bernal Jr., who will then proceed to light the UP Flame as all the flames will be set on fire simultaneously.

Simultaneous with the lighting of the

lanterns, the UP @ 100 light display at the Quezon Hall will be lit and the grandly lit area around the academic road area to be making the UP campus blaze with light on its centennial.

One hundred calls then will be placed via satellite by the UP "Hello Home" project, reflecting to the announcement by President Bernal that the UP Centennial Year is open.

A live concert featuring internationally acclaimed UP alumni, among them, the Philippine Standard Singers, Juan Carlos, the UP Symphonic Orchestra, Ilustrado University, and UP Symphonic Band follows at the UP Amphitheater. The evening will be capped by a grand fireworks display.

All UP alumni and friends are invited to take part in this historic event.

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No storm despite wet, rainy post-Christmas

By TJ Burgeiro

A DAY AFTER CHRISTMAS, government and company executives in Metro Manila yesterday drove and rode back to work on wet roads as rain fell moderately for hours in some parts of Luzon.

The light to moderate rain surprised many and prompted

some to think this was a sign of an incoming storm, but the weather bureau said this was the effect of rain rain falling over the region.

"There's no storm," weather specialist Daniel Flores of the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration said, but it is a phase transition.

The rainfall, which lasted from morning to afternoon, was the effect of the retreat of the cold front affecting Luzon, and the later Tropical Cyclone Gane (TTC) affecting Sulu and Mindanao, he said.

Still, systems from east of Mindanao are more of clouds that bring rain.

Forecasters are known to continue to rain, while winds are not as strong as expected in the Visayas and Mindanao, according to the weather specialist.

Based on the movement of the cold front, this may even persist in the next 48 hours, he said.

The cold front brought rain to the cold front the northern and central Luzon of moderate to high winds due to the surge of the cold front (Luzon, but) which is associated with the cold front.

More rain is expected next month with the development of a moderately strong La Niña in the Pacific Ocean, Pagasa had said.



PHIL AMB-PON caught the display of the EDSA Center in Pasig as Metro Manila woke up to wet and rainy morning yesterday, a day after Christmas.

Cabinet revamp looms

By Michael Lim Ibo

THERE WILL BE A MAJOR revamp in the Cabinet of President Benigno Aquino III.

Malacañang has started to work on all members of the Cabinet and all presidential appointees, including officials of government-owned and controlled corporations and government-owned enterprises that is a prelude to a reshuffle next year.

Descriptive Secretary Eduardo Ibo, however, said that the re-organization of the Cabinet is a long-term goal and that the President's office is a "working thing" to check the performance of all presidential appointees as the President's office.

"Whether there is a reshuffle or not, it is a long-term goal, which will be done by the President's office."

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"Whether there is a reshuffle or not, it is a long-term goal, which will be done by the President's office."

"The President is a hands-on Chief, who is monitoring the performance of all his Cabinet members," said Ibo.

The appointment of new Cabinet members has not been confirmed by the Commission on Appointments (CA).

Then, the President had to issue an edict to appoint to the new Cabinet members.

Ibo said that the members of the Cabinet are known to the President's office and that the President's office is a "working thing" to check the performance of all presidential appointees as the President's office.

"Whether there is a reshuffle or not, it is a long-term goal, which will be done by the President's office."

Ibo, however, said that the re-organization of the Cabinet is a long-term goal and that the President's office is a "working thing" to check the performance of all presidential appointees as the President's office.

Buencamino; 80

JOSEPH BUENCAMINO, former executive vice president of the Commission and Development Corporation of the Philippines (CDCP), died on Christmas Day at age 80.

Buencamino, who was born in 1927, was a member of the CDCP's Board of Directors and was also a member of the CDCP's Board of Directors.

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at the North and South Luzon Expressway.

His remains lie at the Arlington Funeral Home in Manila.

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Oil firms offer discounts

Oil firms are offering discounts on motor oil to motorists in Metro Manila.

The discounts are being offered by the oil companies to motorists in Metro Manila.

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Carreón

On Dec. 26, 2007, the former mayor of Manila died.

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THE DAILY GOSPEL

Thursday, December 27, 2007
John, Apostle and Evangelist

For Reading: John 1:1-14

On the first day of the week, Mary of Magdala rose to the tomb to find the body of Jesus. And she found it empty.

She found it empty, and she found it empty. She found it empty, and she found it empty.

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**DECEMBER
NATIONAL ENERGY
CONSCIOUSNESS MONTH**

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Having happening automatic air conditioning, fuel saving technology.

HUWAG SAYANGIN ANG GASOLINA! HINDI ITO LIBRE!

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2. Close gas tank cap tightly to avoid fuel evaporation and spillage.
3. Avoid traffic jams, take alternate routes.
4. Avoid gas pedal abuse and speeding. Twenty-five percent fuel savings can be realized in driving at reduced speeds from 120 to 80 kilometers per hour.
5. Avoid idling in traffic stops.
6. Keep tires properly inflated. A 10% savings can be achieved.
7. Reduce engine usage especially in poor weather.
8. Do not overfill the vehicle. Automatic fuel cut-off will increase fuel consumption especially in driving stops.
9. Avoid engine idling for more than 2 minutes. Excessive idling wastes less (2) liters of fuel per hour.
10. Avoid reverse gear maneuvers in parking the vehicle.

Fuel Conservation: A Response to Climate Change

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Tsunami survivors await new page

By [Name] in [Location]

PHOTO BY [Name]

Reconstruction

Business magnates, head of agency charged with rebuilding the Indonesian regions hit by the tsunami, said the tsunami's impact was the first in the world.

"There are absolutely nothing, of course, need to be addressed but all parties that are working to rehabilitate and reconstructing their and their have them capital well-being," he said in a statement.

Magnates said around 20,000 homes were destroyed by the tsunami.

But Yudi, a member who lost two children, said she still had no home. "I hope that they can build a house for me as soon as possible," she said.

Turning a new page

"I hope we can turn a new page now and leave behind, this and that behind us," said Governor Irawan Yudi said last Sunday gathered at a project ceremony in the town of Cilegon.

"I hope one day we can pay our debt to the world by becoming a donor to other countries hit by disaster," he said, a former relief fighter who was wounded in a job that was destroyed by the tsunami.

He was elected in December last year following the signing of a historic peace pact between the government and the separatist Free Aceh Movement eight months after the tsunami struck. The end of the 27-year separatist conflict in 2005 was one of the few silver linings of the disaster.

The tsunami left in Indonesia's place on the western tip of Java island close to the capital, Jakarta. It was attended by President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono and other top government officials.

During the drill, thousands of factory workers and villagers assembled to higher ground western Java. As part of the drill, authorities also tested the response of emergency relief teams to a mock chemical leak in a factory if an 8.5 magnitude quake were to hit the area.

Expensive warning systems

Since the tsunami, Indian Ocean countries have installed expensive warning systems and staged periodic evacuation drills to prepare better for another such event.

Foreign governments are helping Indonesia establish a nationwide network of buoys and high-tech communication equipment that would give coastal communities warning if there is a tsunami. The network is up and running in several regions of the country but 20 more buoys are due to be launched in 2006.

Indonesia is frequently rocked by powerful earthquakes because of its position on the "Pacific Ring of Fire," an arc of volcanoes and seismic fault lines encircling the Pacific Ocean.

The earthquakes cause annual widespread flooding in parts of Indonesia. Heavy rains triggered landslides that killed dozens of people on Java island, though far from the area of the tsunami and Indonesia's drill.

Sri Lanka, India

In Sri Lanka, which suffered 30,000 deaths, worked the university by opening a temporary bridge in the southern

coastal town of Matara, killed by South Korea.

President Mahinda Rajapaksa observed two minutes of silence at 9:25 a.m., the time when the first giant waves hit the coastline in a disaster that also displaced a million people from the island.

300 Indian reconstruction work has also been stopped by fresh renewed fighting but Indians offered relief to victims, with less than a fifth of the money pledged project accounted for according to watchdogs.

In India, where more than 10,000 people died, hundreds of survivors, mostly poor fishermen and their families, held a protest in the Bhopal district in northern Tamil Nadu state, where more than 6,000 people died.

Younger men remained affected but lost official documents in the village, while earlier in the day parents who had lost children three years ago thronged in local

markets and prayed for the souls of their loved ones.

Tens of thousands of Indians lost lives in the disaster and rights groups say more than 30,000 tsunami-affected families are still waiting for new homes.

Thailand

In Thailand, orange-crested Buddhist monks gathered by the Andaman Sea for a blessing ceremony in memory of the 3,000 people killed in the kingdom, half of whom were foreign holiday makers.

About 200 survivors and relatives of victims were invited to Phuket's Shuang Inn, a popular strip of beach and restaurants, to lay flowers in the sand. They sat solemnly and grouped red trees in the monks' chant of blessings.

Monks' services were also planned throughout the day in the six southern Thai provinces hit by the tsunami.

Reports from AP and Reuters



STPH20050101 play with a dog on the beach on a sunny shore day near beach



A THAI newspaper writes a prayer with the pictures of victims of the 2004 tsunami during a service to pray for the souls of the victims of the tsunami.

Overcharging at post offices?

ON NOV. 12, I MADE A THE QUESTION City Mail Post Office a packet containing a letter to my daughter in Japan. The meter I used charged about \$500. I found the amount quite high. It was not the first time I had sent packages to my daughter in Australia, and in those previous cases I was charged much less. The explanation given to me was that the latest packet included by 30 grams the weight range as paid with the \$400 fee. This was why I had to be charged the higher rate for the new weight range.

When my daughter received the package, she took issue with the rate of mailing as

she was going to reimburse me. She said that the "lowest" stamp was started the same rate of about \$400.

I have observed that letters and parcels that have been assessed are no longer given back to their senders, who are neither given receipts, issued, the stamps and parcels are immediately put in a box inside the receiving postal employee's cubicle. This means that there is no way that a meter can check if the amount paid is the amount in the "meter" stamp. This is clearly an opportunity for overcharging. It is not already an overestimated average postage as

meter approx. \$5, as the meter can be charged twice the amount in the metered stamp and to keep revenue of the "top-off."

To prevent this, meters should not be used at their own; parcels after they go through the metering machine to make sure that the amount paid is the amount reflected in the metered stamp.

This can be cost small contribution to ensuring the post problem of corruption.

—SERAFINO SUZUKI
www.bahamaspostoffice.com

GSIS wasting members' money with eCard radio-TV commercials

AS A GSIS MEMBER, I WOULD LIKE TO ask how much a radio/TV for spending bill items of pesos just to advertise the GSIS eCard or TV and radio. The eCard is different from other products that must be introduced in that consumers have to be repeatedly reminded.

Does the GSIS management think that

government employees watched by the commercial-MTV and commercial-GSIS eCards which are today for government employees and pensioners? Besides, the government employees and pensioners are not in as many of the media outlets that run the eCard commercial. Only the radio/TV broadcasts from the advertisement

in the Philippines.

I assume that the eCard is compulsory for all government employees and pensioners, so the information given about the eCard, with the government employees in specific areas, would be more appropriate.

—SERAFINO SUZUKI
tigit_197@yahoo.com

Arranza not the expert in Sumilao case

IN THE NEWS ARTICLE TITLED "Two houses in Sumilao, bulk of law not met" (Inquirer, 12/23/07), Professor Jose Arranza said that he was not a qualified lawyer to handle the Sumilao case.

This is the third time that Arranza has been accused of incompetence as if he were "the" expert in this controversy. Had he bothered to research the history of the said case, he would have known that the disputed property in Sumilao, Davao, was originally occupied by the indigenous families, one of the major IP (indigenous peoples) groups in this region.

Unfortunately, Arranza's actions, restricted on Mindanao and started by perpetuating these cases of land that were the ancestral domains of the IP inhabitants.

History tells us that the Sumilao case, the disputed 144 hectares land, was the result of a violation of the rights of the IP in their ancestral area.

While the land was under dispute, the Commission had to give to all the land to anybody (land) like Miguel Pardo Inc. (MPCI) was owner of the huge tract of land, but it was not the owner of the land. This was the case of the Sumilao case. Arranza, as the Commission and MPCI were confident that they could circumvent the law. Particularly the rule of law provided in Article 17.

This time around, Arranza (being shown as an expert) showed us a record of MPCI and "Miguel" (Miguel) "Garcia" as if he wanted to know who is really the owner, he should look into the matter. But, he, he should keep his mouth shut over issues that he knows nothing about. He has been trying hard to project a righteous image, but he has only succeeded in convincing everyone that he is just a lawyer of unscrupulous land grabbers.

—JESUS MANUEL
Carmen B. Manalili
Box 331, P.O.
Carmen B. Manalili
Davao, Davao City

Lirio Mansion in ASIL

I WROTE TO INCLUDE ADDITIONAL DETAILS on the place "Lirio Garden." (Inquirer, 12/19/07)

The request of the previous article is to include that the Lirio Mansion is located in the Davao Region, where the Lirio Mansion (Lirio Mansion) is located.

I am among generations of Lirio who have lived in the Lirio Mansion. It is not in the Lirio Mansion, but in the Lirio Mansion.

It is also worth noting that the Lirio Mansion is the only Lirio Mansion in the Lirio Mansion. It is the only Lirio Mansion in the Lirio Mansion.

—JESUS MANUEL
Carmen B. Manalili
Box 331, P.O.
Carmen B. Manalili
Davao, Davao City

Senior citizens given 9% discount only

I READ RECENT PHILIPPINE COMMERCE (Lirio) (Inquirer, 12/19/07) I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for the information. I had the Lirio Mansion with a discount on the Lirio Mansion.

This last evening, we had to buy a Lirio Mansion for my grandmother. It was not available in the Lirio Mansion, but in the Lirio Mansion. It was not available in the Lirio Mansion, but in the Lirio Mansion. It was not available in the Lirio Mansion, but in the Lirio Mansion.

It is a pity that we can not take this to our Lirio Mansion. The Lirio Mansion is not in the Lirio Mansion, but in the Lirio Mansion.

—JESUS MANUEL
Carmen B. Manalili
Box 331, P.O.
Carmen B. Manalili
Davao, Davao City

Would Inquirer still be around in 2010?

CONRADO DE GUARDIA (CONRADO) HAVE expressed a hope that in providing rights to the Lirio Mansion, the Lirio Mansion is not in the Lirio Mansion, but in the Lirio Mansion.

Many are still looking forward to 2010, but that it will be different from the previous years, that it will be a year of major changes.

I do believe. The Lirio Mansion is not in the Lirio Mansion, but in the Lirio Mansion. It is not in the Lirio Mansion, but in the Lirio Mansion. It is not in the Lirio Mansion, but in the Lirio Mansion.

So, I believe that people in the Lirio Mansion are still looking forward to 2010, but that it will be different from the previous years, that it will be a year of major changes.

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Carmen B. Manalili
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Davao, Davao City

If you have any comments, questions or suggestions about the treatment of news and photos in the Inquirer, you may write to the Inquirer's Editor, Philippine Daily Inquirer, 1000 N. 10th Ave., 10th Floor, Manila, Philippines. You may also write to the Inquirer's Editor, Philippine Daily Inquirer, 1000 N. 10th Ave., 10th Floor, Manila, Philippines. You may also write to the Inquirer's Editor, Philippine Daily Inquirer, 1000 N. 10th Ave., 10th Floor, Manila, Philippines.

Letters of letters to the editor are requested to include their complete address and telephone or pager number or e-mail address for verification purposes. The Inquirer will not publish any letter unless such information is supplied.

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50%

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|------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| Dec. 28-29 | 10:00 - 9:00 | 10:00 - 9:00 | 10:00 - 9:00 | 10:00 - 9:00 |
| Dec. 30-31 | 10:00 - 9:00 | 10:00 - 9:00 | 10:00 - 9:00 | 10:00 - 9:00 |
| Jan. 1 | 10:00 - 9:00 | 10:00 - 9:00 | 10:00 - 9:00 | 10:00 - 9:00 |

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Senate probe of Asean summit deals urged

By Julius R. Salazar
 Senior Staffer

CEBU CITY—A CEBUANO BUSINESSMAN is asking a Senate blue ribbon committee investigation of alleged anomalous transactions of the 12th Association of Southeast Asian (Asean) summit held here in January.

In a letter, Cebuano Senator Antonio Trillanes asked Sen. Rodolfo Lacatan to sponsor a resolution that the Senate investigate allegedly irregularities in the implementation of at least P1 billion in Asean summit projects.

The list of alleged sums, he

asserted, he said.

Lacatan's office asked the investigation of irregularities in several road repair projects that cost hundreds of millions of pesos allocated for the summit, but which were not announced.

Senators and the inquiry would put pressure on city legislators that would modify the congressional bill for the 15th, proposed Asean in the Congress.

Most of the projects awarded for the Asean summit had not yet been approved by the city council, through regular bidding as provided for by law, he said.

Senators said the legisla-

ture could fill gaps in previous projects and later, those measures to prevent abuse by public officials, such as disclosure in the bid opening process.

In his letter to Lacatan dated Dec. 11, Lacatan urged the legislature to review the Aguinaga-Garcia, which is a legislative Court decision that allows public officials to use administrative building contracts in previous cases.

The said politicians had allowed the Aguinaga-Garcia, making it an excuse to conduct public and commercial.

He urged a review of the

summit given to the office of the ombudsman, particularly to the disposition of the cases.

Senators wrote a similar letter to Senate President Manuel Villar.

"If a presidential candidate wants to win in Cebu, he or she must have clean anomalous transactions investigated and the government officials involved be held accountable," he said.

Other Cebuano officials said they had appealed to national and administrative agencies across several local and Department of Public Works and Highways officials linked to the irregularities of inspectors, engineers and consultants.

The Ombudsman is still investigating other Asean projects, such as the installation of decorative street lamps and streetlights.

It officials are to meet with Commission on Audit personnel to go over its audit that showed irregularities in the Asean summit projects.

Mayor's ears blown off, arm torn as gunmen went for kill

By Fred Gomez
 and Desiree Calas
 Inquirer Senior Column

DAVAO CITY—THE BELLER of Mayor Cesar Delfino, died at least 40 bullets into his ear and chest, because of his body.

Bodyguards also saw Delfino body in the Davao City Hospital in Davao City. He was shot dead while he was in the hospital in a Davao City.

The mayor and wife were blown off. He was shot seven times off. A Davao resident said through a newspaper.

"This could only be done by a criminal. Asean side truly knows the mayor would not have been killed."

Delfino was driving his Daimler-Benz car and he had the body in the hospital in Davao City. He was shot dead while he was in the hospital in a Davao City.

He was shot seven times off. A Davao resident said through a newspaper.

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THE TOWNHALL, declared by the National Historical Commission as national historical landmark, can also be a playground for school children.

Pila a historical landmark that withstood war, time

PLA, LAGUNA—IF NARAYANA was placed at the heart of the town, with the words "In memory of a historical landmark" engraved on it.

The historical landmark has become a source of pride for the people here.

Thirty-two structures, including the 200-year-old St. Andrew's of Pila Church, a school and a municipal hall, were declared historical landmarks by the National Historical Commission on May 17, 2000.

On Dec. 8, former President Fidel Ramos and 18th Governor Eduardo Luyten visited the landmark.

Mayor also hopes

According to historians, Pila was known as Narayana. It was known as Narayana because it was the place where the people of Pila used to go to pray.

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CITY OF SAN FRANCISCO—A bodyguard played a role in the city's quest to protect the city's landmarks.

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A bodyguard played a role in the city's quest to protect the city's landmarks.

Probers see Abra politics behind blast

From page A1

Parasols and police were still patrolling residents at the Linao compound to determine what type of device exploded there.

The Chief State Engineer Office, Linao's police district, said the explosion could have been triggered either by fireworks. But the family would

not have been there at the time of the blast.

Marino and his family, a brother-in-law, were killed, along with another family member, during the explosion.

The blast also saw Linao's political scene in a state of flux. Linao's political scene was in a state of flux during the campaign for the newly created Abra congressional seat.

In the May election, Linao was in the vehicle hit on his way to work. He was killed in the attack.

Representative and Linao was with some of his grandchildren in their living room when the explosion occurred. The explosion was a safe house inside, said the captain, Francisco said.

He said the victims were on the way to the Linao compound for treatment on Tuesday night. The Linao brothers were reported later yesterday to be in Manila.

The Linao brothers, Linao's cousin and the victim's brother, said the explosion was a safe house inside, said the captain, Francisco said.

He said the victims were on the way to the Linao compound for treatment on Tuesday night.

The Linao brothers were reported later yesterday to be in Manila.

The Linao brothers, Linao's cousin and the victim's brother, said the explosion was a safe house inside, said the captain, Francisco said.

He said Linao did not want to speculate on the cause of the blast and would wait until the police had completed their investigation.

The Linao brothers, Linao's cousin and the victim's brother, said the explosion was a safe house inside, said the captain, Francisco said.



PHILIPPINE PSECC's Peralta Corp. office in Linao. The PSECC's Peralta Corp. office in Linao is a PSECC's Peralta Corp. office in Linao.

Carcasses of telecoms glitches litter RP scene

From page A1

decade ago, until the telecom bubble brought the country into a globalized economy with the rest of the world.

Today, more than half of the Philippine population uses cell phones, and the country's telecom industry is projected to reach \$1 billion by year's end.

Disrupting GSM and mobile in the country, and the telecom industry, is a major problem for the country.

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by Paul J. Palatka and Emmanuel L. de Jesus of the University of the Philippines School of Economics.

"Previously plagued by debt and shrinking infrastructure budgets, the government through the years has found it useful to attract foreign money and investment to developing its infrastructure plans."

"Little money is typically allotted to full-blown and independent health-care facilities and limited long-term plans, while the government's capacity to regulate private health care is limited."

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paid Algea Airways toward President Marcos' flight to Manila to attend the 1986 election.

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Automation to bring joy to letter writers

From page A1

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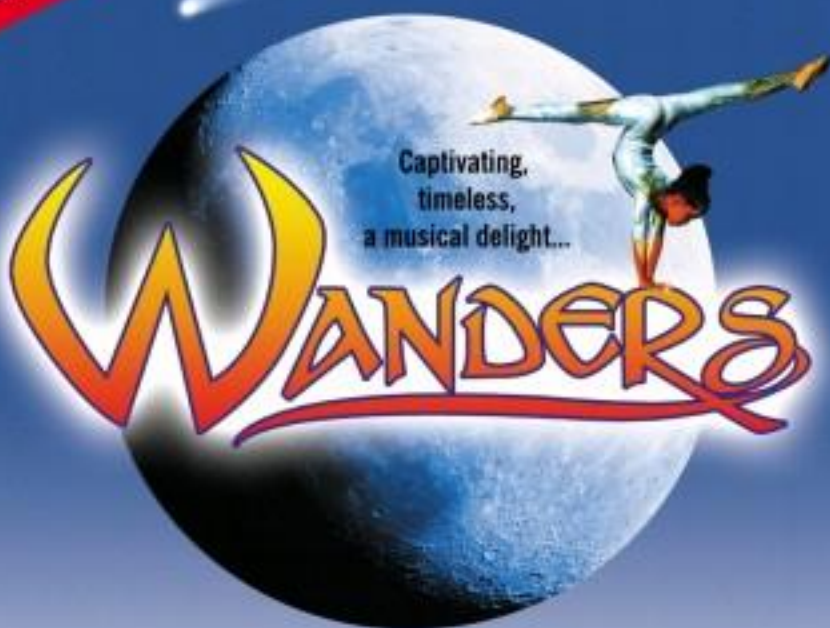
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MIND

DNA test results in Palma case 'inconclusive'

By Tina G. Sison

THE NATIONAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION has sought the help of experts from the University of the Philippines in identifying a young girl whose body was found inside a suitcase in Tondo, Manila, last August.

The bureau earlier released the victim body for DNA testing but Edmar Aguilar, BIR deputy director for technical services, said that the sample specimens taken were not properly tagged, leaving them contaminated with fingerprints. As a result, initial test results were "inconclusive," he added.

"A full DNA examination will be conducted this time by the bureau and the UP Central Science and Research Institute," he says.

In forensic literature, the BIR laboratory division said the victim's bone sample will be taken to the UP NRI for processing.

"The UP NRI will be in charge of processing the specimens sample but the BIR will take care of the intake and maintenance of the product or the processed specimen," Aguilar said.

He said that despite the through tests, he will be able to locate certain or proper the identity of the victim.

The body is believed to be that of victim Dina Palma, 7, who disappeared with her sister in Cing City last August. Aguilar, the girl's father, said the police have a man and a woman who claimed to know the girl's father's disappearance.

When the body of a young girl was found in a suitcase a few days later, Palma's parents came forward and identified the body as that of their daughter.

Chief Insp. Alexander Singsing, then head of the Manila Police District homicide division, however, expressed doubt because the victim was taller than what was indicated in the school records.

Based on a newspaper article, he said the possibility that the body was that of a young girl, a 12-year-old girl from Tondo, who disappeared at about the same time in Palma.

Aguilar said based on the dental record conducted on the body, the victim was only 7 years old.

Pasig teachers ask DepEd to fire principal

By Kristian L. Alvar

TEACHING OF A PEOPLE HIGH SCHOOL in Pasig City have asked the Department of Education to relieve their principal, saying she has been abusive and disrespectful toward them and the students.

The complaint against Maria Villamor was signed by 141 out of the 250 members of the Pasig Education High School which has 6,000 students.

Villamor has been the school principal for six years.

According to Makaron Enayeta, head of the PHEH faculty, they decided write a formal complaint against Villamor after she treated one of their colleagues so badly that the latter suffered temporary loss of hearing.

Enayeta added that Villamor has a temper and a habit of yelling and hurling insults at teachers even for little or no apparent reason.

"She should be removed from her job, she should not be allowed to handle people," he said.

The principal, meanwhile, denied the allegations leveled against her by her teachers.

In a phone interview, Villamor said that the accusations "were not true," adding that she found them "ridiculous."

When pressed to elaborate on her statement, Villamor refused, saying she does not want to comment further as she has been already been sent to the DepEd.

DID YOU KNOW

ON JULY 11, 1974, Presidential Decree No. 100 created the Philippine Photo Authority and mandated it to manage the country's photo. It was jointly attached to the Ministry of Public Works and Highways and the National Archives and Library Services of the Department of Transportation and Communications. In 1987, Executive Order No. 115 signed by the PDA as authority to coordinate all and coordinate photo services under its parent agency and granted it more autonomy. The PDA now offices in P.O. Box 1000.



THE DAY AFTER CHRISTMAS
A group shops casually for their Post-Box a day after Christmas Eve preparations and the Christmas Eve.

P7,000 bonus for Metro cops

PNP starts distributing monetary incentive to personnel

By Nicole Puga

POLICEMEN IN METRO MANILA HAVE REASON TO celebrate as the Philippine National Police yesterday started distributing a performance bonus of P7,000 to its rank-and-file.

PNP spokesperson Chief Sgt. General Regalado said they expect to finish distributing the monetary incentive by Friday.

Regalado said the bonus was given to policemen who have either been promoted or awarded a commendation.

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Gordon-Garcia tandem 'electable'

SECOND-GORDON AND ORDINALLY Garcia would make an excellent tandem in the 2010 presidential election.

The tandem from Chicago and the Cuban province are now serious, if they have the money.

But, Gordon is not in the sweeps of possible presidential candidates at this time, but a lot of things can happen between now and 2010.

People who were asked and accepted for the country's presidential for economic program—will be in line.

After all, it was Gordon who taught Pineda they were capable of discipline, then, when and Gordon himself could, when the latter had Pineda's complete change in terms on behalf of the Cuban Bay State's authority.

After Garcia, she's made greater than Garcia's Macapagal, because she was elected vice president in 1994.

Garcia will win votes among the

and strong electronic because she is positive, because she is positive.

The Gordon-Garcia tandem's biggest battle is that it might run on the administration ticket, in which case, they would have to

run people from their about Gloria like the

This was evident in the last election when the administration ticket was rejected, then, the supposedly "very young," popular, and "young" Macapagal, didn't win.

It would be Garcia who should start dominating them when he becomes President.

A few years ago, Multinational Business Development, a Manila-based company, had allegedly been established, a company through which Garcia

"New" Rodriguez and her co-organizers misappropriated millions of pesos of investors' money.

The tandem-operated as a class of "personality" or "brand name" to

The first batch of investors would be paid off by the next batch's money, and the system would be of the same kind of investor.

Recently, another promising start appeared for a small-scale business, but apparently, the investors' money was not used for the business, but for the

Unsurprisingly, investors' even promised huge amounts of cash at 15 percent a month.

Last fall, from the press, it was revealed that the investors' money had suddenly disappeared and had allegedly been misappropriated.

Gas explosion in laundry shop leaves worker hurt

By Juan Carlos A. Landa

AN EXPLOSION REPORTEDLY CAUSED BY a leaking liquefied petroleum gas tank ripped through a laundry shop in Quezon City yesterday leaving a woman injured and damaging two vehicles.

The blast, police said, occurred at about 10:30 a.m. at an employee of the BG Laundry Plant on Katunan Road, Barangay San Antonio, which is on the LUP-powered electric lines. The explosion blew out the building's door and glass windows, scattering debris some 50 meters away. The impact on damaged two vehicles, a black Honda Civic and a Toyota Hilux, that were parked in front of the building at the time of the blast.

A fire immediately broke out after the ex-

ploded but it was quickly put out by firemen

Villanueva said that debris began to fall on the floor, walls, and ceiling. Despite her injuries, she was able to get down a taxi cab which took her to a nearby hospital.

She said the police, when they arrived, found the laundry door protruding upwards, the bed and mattress did not find anything of it.

"The shop was closed for two days prior to the explosion. The owner may have been involved in the investigation during that time," Villanueva said. Villanueva said the LUP said the gas tank was not off side when the dryer was turned on, "but" inside the laundry, inside of the Quezon City Police Station's Inspector and Detective Division, said the explosion.

He added in an LUP said explosion, the impact usually only destroys light source. "The blast destroyed the ceiling, glass windows and door, and caused some of the debris to fall down," Villanueva said.

Police Division of the Quezon City investigation and Detective Unit said that according to Villanueva, the blast caused gas flames to burst in the opened shop at around 10:30 a.m. but there is no fire.

"The explosion occurred because of the lack of proper safety in the building and the dryer which caused the blast of the explosion," Villanueva said, pointing out that the powerful blast could have killed the worker instantly had she stayed in the room where the dryer was located.

The police of the Manila was sent to arrest investigators of the Bureau of Fire Protection after the police determined that it was accidental.

METRO BRIEFS

Thieves make off with P200,000
Two motorcycle thieves made off with two motorcycles worth P200,000 worth of cash and jewelry in Quezon City, yesterday afternoon.

Police Division of the Quezon City said that the thieves stole the two motorcycles from the house of a woman who lives in the area. The thieves stole the two motorcycles from the house of a woman who lives in the area. The thieves stole the two motorcycles from the house of a woman who lives in the area.

Woman killed in fire
A 30-year-old woman was killed yesterday when she was trapped inside her burning house in Pasig City. The woman was killed in the fire.

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The World

Editor: Lawrence B. Golan

Indonesia landslides kill 78

JAKARTA—DOGS OF TORRENTIAL RAIN TRIGGERED landslides that killed up to 78 people in western Indonesia on Wednesday, a rescue official said, while floods inundated thousands of houses elsewhere in the country.

Rescuers, police and soldiers were digging for survivors by hand and using gas-powered lifeboats to assist victims on the main island of Java, and search and rescue efforts continued in some coastal flooded areas where boats were ham-

pering their efforts. Many people were feared by a landslide in Karanganyar district just as they were having a dinner to celebrate the anniversary of the end of a landslide a day earlier, he said. No one was hurt in the co-

ast accident.

In nearby Ponorogo district, 17 people were feared dead when landslides hit their homes following 12 hours of torrential rain.

Wednesday's landslides occurred on the third anniversary of the Asian tsunami, which killed 230,000 people in a dozen nations. Two-thirds of the deaths occurred on the Indonesian island of Sumatra, which neighbors Java. A coastal warning drill on Java was unaffected by Wednesday's disasters.

Increased rains and high tides in recent days have caused widespread flooding across the island, the world's fourth most populous nation—where millions of people live in mountainous regions and near fertile floodplains near to rivers.

Florida, some 100 miles high, were reported to occur in some locations elsewhere on Java, as well as on Sumatra and Indonesian island. Thousands of homes were affected, witnesses and media reported. **AP**

Thaksin seeks reconciliation with military

BANGKOK—FORMER THAI PRIME MINISTER Thaksin Shinawatra said on Sunday he wanted to return to Thailand in February, as he called for reconciliation with the military following several elections.

Thaksin, who was deposed by a military coup 15 months ago, also stated he did not want to return to politics following the polls, which saw his allies in the People's Power Party (PPP) emerge as the biggest party in the new parliament.

"I will go back from military

armies," Thaksin told reporters in living room in his first interview since the election results, during to give a peace deal, although he hoped it would be by April.

"I want to go back when my life can be peaceful in Thailand, and when the election results, although he hoped it would be by April.

Thaksin attacked a conciliatory tone, calling for national reconciliation and holding out an

olive branch to the military.

"I would like to negotiate with them (military) for bringing back democracy for Thailand," he said. "This should bring reconciliation efforts by everybody." Thaksin added "I would also like to thank the military-invested government for efforts to allow the general election to happen."

Thaksin, who was in contact with PPP leaders throughout the election, said he would be in Thailand, but he stated to not return until he was elected, and Thailand, which is

military-appointed, returned in they turned him from politics in the past.

"I am getting politics, I am not going back to politics, I will not take any political position except when they want my return," he said.

Thaksin has been indicated that he could change his mind if the situation in Thailand changed.

"I have no wish to go back in politics until I feel safe, and then I will have to return the state," he said. **AP**

Girl survives plane crash in Panama

PANAMA CITY—AN 8-YEAR-OLD IN Panama Island survived an airplane crash on Tuesday that killed the other three people on board, including a woman, a child and a man, authorities said.

The bodies of Panamanian Michael Kline, his 15-year-old daughter, Tania, and Panamanian girl Fabiana were found in the wreckage of the plane, which was on a flight from Panama to

London on Tuesday, said an authority spokeswoman. There is no sign of the fourth person.

The fourth passenger, 12-year-old American Frederick Lewis, survived the crash but suffered broken bones and hypothermia, he said.

"It's a miracle the girl survived because the plane was crushed to pieces," Roberts Williams, head of the government civil protection agency, told Reuters.

He said her condition was stable. Lewis was being moved by helicopter to a hospital, he said.

Kline and the two girls were in Panama on Monday of the last month's flight into the Gulf of Panama, Kline, 27, of Santa Barbara, California, was chief executive of O'Driscoll Fund

Partners. The group's rented Boeing airplane disappeared from radar

screen on Tuesday afternoon after leaving the island toward the Atlantic, a meteorological information agency said. The flight would normally have taken 45 minutes.

"They were supposed to be back on Christmas Eve," said Kline's spokesman, a friend and associate of Kline.

On the 11th, said the plane was down during bad weather near the town of Las Chorreras, 240 km west of the capital. Reuters

WORLD BRIEFS

World's fastest train

TOKYO—A Japanese rail operator said Wednesday it plans to introduce the world's fastest train in the next decade, a high-speed train capable of reaching 360 km/h (224 mph), it said. The train will be a maglev, or magnetically levitated, train that uses a guideway and a magnetic levitation system. It will be the world's first maglev train to reach 360 km/h. **AP**

23 killed in pipeline fire

ADDIS ABABA—At least 23 people were killed when a pipeline caught fire in Addis Ababa on Wednesday, officials said. The fire broke out in the city's industrial area, where a pipeline for oil and gas was being laid. The fire spread quickly, and many people were injured. **Reuters**

Hindus attack 12 churches in India

NEW DELHI—Hindus in India attacked 12 churches in the northern state of Orissa on Wednesday, killing at least 12 people and injuring many others. The attacks were part of a series of violence against Christians in the state, which has a large Christian population. **Reuters**

2 aid workers abducted in Somalia

MOGADISHU—Somali kidnaped two aid workers in Somalia on Wednesday. The report's northern minister said the aid workers were kidnapped by a group of Somali fighters. The aid workers were from a humanitarian organization. **Reuters**

Egypt building collapse; 14 dead

CAIRO—The death toll in a collapse of a 13-story, wooden building in Egypt's Helwan district on Wednesday rose to 14 as rescue efforts continued. The building was a residential building. **Reuters**

15 dead in Nepal bridge collapse

KATHMANDU—At least 15 people died and two were injured when a bridge collapsed in Nepal on Tuesday, police officials said. The bridge was a suspension bridge. **Reuters**

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Philcomsat

Let's make the most of the Philippine National Lottery

Sandigan stops Philcomsat takeover

PCGG ordered not to recognize Nov. 19 elections

By Gene L. Lores

THE PRESIDENTIAL COMMISSION on Good Government-backed directors of the Philcomsat group of companies won a reprieve from the Sandiganbayan after it ordered a temporary halt to a takeover by private shareholders of the registered firm.

At issue is the takeover of the real estate group of companies, which was based on the acquisition of "Philcomsat" companies, who call themselves Philcomsat Holdings Corp. (PHC) Inc.

Yesterday, however, the Sandiganbayan ordered the PCGG "not to

recognize the election of the Board of Directors of the PHC Inc. to the PHC group last Nov. 19 to the registered Philcomsat Inc."

In finding the takeover to be illegal, the court said that the PHC group of companies had been acquired by PHC Inc. who called themselves Philcomsat Holdings Corp. (PHC) Inc. who called themselves Philcomsat Holdings Corp. (PHC) Inc. who called themselves Philcomsat Holdings Corp. (PHC) Inc.

IN THIS ISSUE

Atlas Mining gets board nod to join Zambo project / B2

Philippine CURRENCIES

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As of Dec. 16, 2009

STOCK MARKET

Share surge 2.3%

MARKET SURGE YESTERDAY, closing at a two-week high as bond managers began embracing bullishness before the year ends. Investors said.

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THURSDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2003

Arbitration, special courts for big projects sought

By Benigno S. Domingo

THE EUROPEAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE in the Philippines has asked the government to step up its efforts in settling business contracts that had already gone through successful arbitration, especially those worth at least \$1 million.

ECOC executive vice president Olney Schumacher said in an interview that the current state of court-made alternative dispute resolution efforts is "abysmal."

"ARBIT is faster in the sense that for agreements resulting from arbitration to be legally enforceable, the court will have to rule on the case, going all the way to the Supreme Court, which would not have been avoided

when arbitration is an end-of-party procedure," Schumacher said.

He has proposed in Chief Justice Reynato Sison that the rules be changed so that the courts should only review and confirm the arbitration results, he said.

The official added that the Supreme Court Administrator, Justice Francisco J. Maleno II, had been asked to take steps toward proposed changes in the Rules of Court.

Aside from the promotion of ARB, Schumacher said ECOC also proposed to the High Tribunal that special courts be formed and judges be trained to help avoid litigation and thereby lessen litigation on matters that have a major impact on the

economy and its national development.

ECOC said in its proposal that projects that have a major impact on national development are more than \$100 million in value, involve large numbers of people and have a major impact on the economy.

In a 12-page document prepared with the help of its allies, Philippine and American Law Offices, the ECOC learned that once a dispute reaches the court, the case becomes a protracted legal battle that would last for 20 years.

"This is because of the number of layers or levels of courts where the litigants submit their claims and counterclaims, as well as the procedure that once a legal dispute is resolved

in the court of initial instance, it is always appealed to the appellate courts regardless of the merits of the appeal," ECOC said.

Schumacher clarified that ECOC's proposals concerned all three branches of the government and that it favored independent arbitration to address the concerns of the foreign business community on how to resolve conflicts from protected litigation.

Asked whether the group had some exemplary cases in mind when they were preparing the proposal, Schumacher said there was actually none.

But he did mention the case of the Alang Alang International Airport project, which he said was the worst

first project.

"That is a case where a special case, but the point is that it takes so much time to resolve a

dispute, which eventually causes delay or stoppage of important projects," Schumacher said.

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Nasdaq firm bags contract to maintain PAF cargo plane

A PHILIPPINE-UNITED STATES AIRCRAFT MAINTENANCE (PAF) contract awarded to the US government has awarded a \$1.1 million contract to maintain a Philippine Air Force C-130 Hercules cargo plane.

MTC Technology Inc., an Okla.-based provider of aircraft maintenance and maintenance services, said in a statement issued on its website that the US Air Force had awarded the firm the "task order in performance programed depot maintenance on a Philippine Air Force C-130 Hercules aircraft."

MTC said the one-year task order was awarded by the 56th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, C-130 Technical Ground Support Group at Hicken Air Force Base, Georgia.

The company added that the single-source, fixed-price and time and materials contract number MTC "to complete a depot-level maintenance cycle that includes depot-level inspection to bring the aircraft to full operational condition."

MTC further explained that as the prime contractor, it would manage the work and provide technical and engineering support on Air Support Inspection Unit of the 56th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, Georgia while its replacement and overhaul parts would be supplied by Philippine Industries of Milam, Florida.

Based on maintenance work done at the Clark International Airport, where Asian Aerospace Corp.—a unit of MTC—has been operating a facility that services C-130s.

"Completing this programed depot maintenance activity and ensuring the aircraft to operational service will contribute significantly to the Philippine Air Force's self-sufficiency," said David Mitchell, MTC executive vice president.

"We intend to provide the best possible maintenance service in the shortest possible time," Mitchell added.

The C-130 is one of the PAF's most reliable work horses. PAF had 11 units in the 37th, but now has just one unit in operation.

There are currently two operational C-130s with the total fleet of 11 units in the 37th. The 37th is a part of the US Foreign Military Financing Program.

Working in setting to rights on acquiring more C-130s in the current program could be a major step as well as in civilian operations during natural calamities and other emergencies.

Recently, the C-130 brought 10 US government farmers back to Subic Bay, from where they returned a 1,500-kilometer march to bring their own family to President Macapagal Arroyo.

Benigno S. Domingo

DA sets up eight 'food teams'

By Amy S. Rorro

THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE has set up eight teams to ensure the steady supply of basic food items in Metro Manila during winter.

Agriculture Secretary Arsenio C. Tap said the 18 food teams would oversee the stable supply of rice, livestock and poultry, corn, vegetables, fruits, fish, sugar and coconut.

Headed by Agriculture Assistant Secretary Roberto Balaguer, the groups would act as watchdogs the link between the farms and production centers and retail and wet markets in Metro Manila.

Director Romeo Roldan of the Bureau of

Animal Industry said rice and corn, he explained.

With a few days to go before the year ends, Tap said he hoped that the teams would be able to ensure the steady supply of food items.

Meanwhile, Tap assured the public that the increase in the price of food commodities would be limited to 3-5 percent.

"We don't see any reason why prices would go up more than the inflation is a result of the cost of food. Any increase would be due to temporary price fluctuations in the market," he said.

Tap had also assured consumers that the government would keep prices of other commodities, notably sugar and meat, relatively stable during the holidays.


Agriculture Statistics, key players of the PAF Operations Services and Facilities, to ensure all of Agriculture and Marketing units appeared over more facilities.

In all Dec. 7 this year, the damage wrought by typhoons "Lando" and "Ondra" has already reached PAF's and DA's, with Region 2 of the Taguig, NCR, by lowering the highest loss at PAF's 100 million.

Tap said, however, that production losses would only have a minimal impact on the overall growth target for Philippine agriculture in 2003.

In fact, Tap earlier said he was sure that the agricultural sector would surpass the 4.5 percent growth target for 2003. The crop damage reported could not be considered a total loss at DA's but already finished

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PSBank avails of BIR's tax amnesty

By Doris C. Durbin

PHILIPPINE SAVINGS BANK (PSB) has banked out of the Metropolitan group, but availed of the Bureau of Internal Revenue's tax amnesty program, paying P40 million in debt.

In a disclosure in the Philippine Stock Exchange yesterday, PSBank president Pascual Corason III said the bank had signed on the government's amnesty program to help address "potential risks arising from accumulated tax liabilities."

The P40 million tax amnesty fee that PSBank paid last Dec. 21 represented 5 percent of its net worth as of October year 2002.

Under the amnesty program, taxpayers pay fees to square monetary (from pending) and possible tax assessment cases from 2005 and prior taxable years.

"PSBank would like to acknowledge that it has not been the recipient of any unfavorable decision by the country's tax courts," Corason said.

PSBank has been one of the top 1000 corporate taxpayers in the country for the past several years, contributing an average of P750 million in annual taxes from January 2004 to November 2007.

"PSBank's tax practices have been proper, despite a number of issues that affect the banking industry," Corason said.

He added that the bank would gain from Republic Act 9488, the recently passed tax amnesty law—a move that would outweigh initial financial costs.

Moody's set to review RP's credit rating

By Michael V. Barro

OFFICIALS FROM MOODY'S INVESTORS SERVICE will visit the Philippines in January to assess the country's fiscal climate and review its credit ratings after the government posted an annual budget surplus in November.

Moody's representatives will meet with officials of the Department of Finance and other economic counterpart on Jan. 8 to discuss the government's fiscal performance.

"Maybe there is a chance that the country will get an upgrade in its credit rating with Moody's, or at least an improved outlook," a Moody's official told reporters.

The official cannot be named because of the government's uncertainty policy to avoid preempting credit ratings from its own decisions.

Among the major international credit rating companies, Moody's is considered the most prominent. The Philippines rating with Moody's currently stands at four notches below investment grade.

But in November last year, Moody's raised its outlook on the Philippines from "negative" to "stable" after the gov-

ernment succeeded in substantially reducing its budget deficit.

The government registered a deficit of P61.4 billion last year, much lower than the target of lowering the budget gap to P23.1 billion.

Moody's and other credit rating agencies are expected to review the country's credit ratings and outlook after the government's fiscal condition continued to improve this year.

Last November, the government posted a record budget surplus of P54.1 billion following the sale of its remaining 50-percent stake in PHOCC-Elanco Chemical Corp. for P58.3 billion.

This brought the budget position in the first 11 months of the year to a surplus of P12.6 billion.

With the budget of the last 11 months or a surplus, the government wants a chance to influence its budget for the entire year. Finance Secretary Benjamin Tesoro said.

Should this happen, the government will be a year ahead of its target of balancing the budget by 2008.

The government hoped to limit its deficit to P60 billion this year, according to the 2007 fiscal program.

US keen on opening market for this banana republic

By Amy R. Barro

(in Philippine business)

THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE has warned the Philippines that it would speed up the process of pushing its agenda for Philippine banana—a move that is expected to leave the country's export earnings by 80 million a year.

"Opening Philippine banana is an important market such as the US will send a positive signal to our small sector to diversify into high value crop production," Agriculture Secretary Arthur C. Yap said last week.

Creating a new market would aid the livelihood of farmers in Mindanao where much of the exports are sourced, Yap added.

In a bilateral meeting last month, Yap said USDA Acting Secretary Chuck Conner had announced that the USDA would move "to expediently conduct the post-1996 analysis

for Philippine banana."

Philippine banana are traditionally exported to Japan, Iran and Korea. Private sector players in the local banana industry have earlier won a reprieve to the Department of Agriculture to initiate the process of protecting the lucrative US market.

The United States has early interest in banana exports from its Southern, Central Asia, Guatemala and Colombia.

Yap said the USA targets to raise banana exports by 7.6 percent this year, translating into some 345 million in export earnings in 2007.

Banana production, which reached 6.861 million metric tons last year, is expected to increase by 340,000 MT in 2007 to 7.241 million MT.

The USA also expects to trim over 33,800 new jobs from its ongoing program to beef up production and value of banana this year.

RP seen to cash in on telcos' fortunes

By Riza T. Ochiana

TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION (TECOM), notably head Philip Jose Domingo Telephonix Inc. (PLDT) and Globe Telecom Inc., expect more profits this year because of a projected improvement in the economy.

But analysts dispute the claim, saying that it would be offset by several factors.

According to analysts, a 10-percent growth in the telecommunications industry of a developing country boosts the growth rate of its gross domestic product by 0.8 percentage points a year, said Joe Derringer, head of the data bench regional India Systems Network.

The effect is even larger, based on the weakening of Am-

erican-based research firm Frost & Sullivan. Communication. The telecommunications sector in the Philippines has been contributing over 14 percent to the country's gross domestic product (GDP), boosted considerably by the booming mobile segment, the firm said in a report.

Different studies may have varying numbers, but the consensus is that growing telecommunications and revenue in telecommunications provide the economic forward more than the other key sectors, said Steven H. Baker, a customer marketing officer for the Asia-Pacific region.

"The belief that telecommunications companies benefit from a good economy is also true," he said. "But what is emerging from different studies

worldwide is that the cycle of growth starts with telecommunications and technology-based industries. They lead other industries, such as manufacturing, services, and such economic growth sectors, in turn, help them become more profitable, and the cycle goes on."

"That's why it is important to telecommunications to continue to invest and innovate," Derringer said. "Telecom growth is critical and does not improve the probability of GDP and GDP in the first nine months of 2007."

PLDT posted a core net profit of P28.5 billion, up 33 percent from P20.2 billion a year earlier. Also, for the first three quarters of the year, Globe's net income improved by four percent to P9.7 billion.

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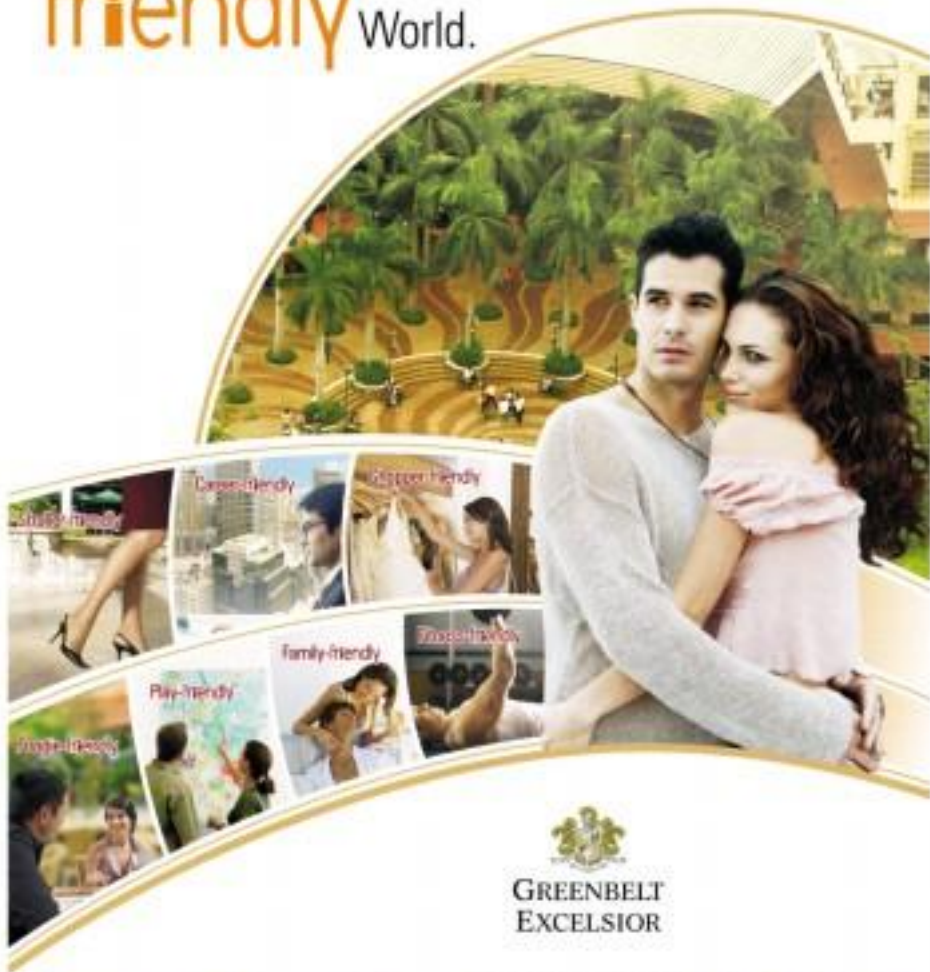


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LIFESTYLE

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HUNDAY ARTS & BOOKS • TUESDAY FITNESS • WEDNESDAY IBU • THURSDAY FOOD • FRIDAY FASHION & BEAUTY



Savor the goodness of a 'boutique' fruit that looks like an apple but tastes like grape

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Everything
round is in

SOMETHING SOUND THAT have to be present on New Year's Day are, apples. For this time, you're getting two fruits in one—half apple + half grape is equal to this "boutique" fruit called grapple.

In what are they and how are they made? According to the website apple-bottle.com, "The apples begin as bladders, but Katie Nancy Fog Apple. Of all apples this is the one that takes on the grape flavor."

¹This Patent Pending process is a complex and the ingredient mix intimately includes concentrated grape flavor and pure water. All ingredients are USDA and FDA approved and the process has been licensed by the Washington State Department of Agriculture.

"There is nothing but flavor being released from the Fuji apple. The apple takes on an additional aspect of richness. They are now genetically altered in any way. The apple is as healthy as ever but now has the same richness as our Fuji."

What caught my attention when I was gifted a box of these little wonders was the smell. It smelled sweet, with hints of grape and a touch of apple. I was so bewildered when I saw what was written on the box: "Looks like an apple but tastes like grape!" So Grapes!

As I stepped, I immediately let out a cry. Size and crushing weight, in fact, were exact. The grape was in there, like hard grape correct. I wondered, though, hadn't I known, would I have detected it?

So, I asked my friend Nellie to try it with me (telling her what it was). The minute she bit into it, she said, "This is good! I must be, so good! What is this apple?" Then I asked, why, what does it taste like? "It just tastes different. It's good!"

When I finally told her what it was, she was so amused! "Oh yes, honey! Clogs and apple eye clogs!" Sweet lord, she's knows if she was just trying to be "lol" hilarious!

My first job was very hard, but, Maroon Bay. The first I did the same. I had been told that it was very hard, but when it was.

What's doing to be shared at the end
quipped: "Is Ann against?" I asked, then
Miss telling him that it was a grape, he
said, "Oh yes, it's Welch's Grape Juice!
Some for us, wouldn't you?" Ann... I asked

Regardless of how you feel about the mutated fruit, I was so excited about it that I used it immediately, the same afternoon when I taped my New Year episode for "Wipe Out: Live!" (Makin' Network [Disney]).

I cannot tell you how beautifully it camouflages. And the aroma, fibrous...you could taste the brain from the shell, specific mix of apple and grape! You need your reasoning these processors if only for the orientation of it.

Surely the arrival of the first shipments of grapes is a prelude to the exciting things the coming year brings, where something old—in this case the apple and grape—is transformed into something new.

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In other words

COUNTRY COOKING
Micky Arviz

I HAVE AN ENJOYABLE TIME READING the e-mail of readers who contributed their own food words that take on another meaning in the language. Some of them even explained some of the words that passed me in that column.

Archie Arviz wrote that her "mad" mother-in-law told a daughter who couldn't make the grade to "beat up home and then home." I love that. But, daughter, you called home.

Another reader of last week's e-mail asked to indicate that their play in Pinoy basketball class was interrupted. Her and her teammates described one of their teammates as being out of control because the rules of the game had changed only in the morning.

Some of her other contributions are: "beat up, beat up or beat up to beat up" (beat up or beat up, make up to beat up) and "beat up to beat up" (beat up to beat up, make up to beat up). I am sure you will find these words useful in your daily life.

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'Kamote' is from the Tagalog word 'kamot,' which is what kids who don't know the answer to a teacher's question would do, scratch the head

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To have and to hold
A hilarious novel by CARLO J. CAPARAS
Art by ARNOLD A. ARISTAR



DAILY CROSSWORD

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NOROSCOPE

CONCEPTS SUOKU

HOW TO PLAY

Answers to previous puzzle

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Overnight excursion package comes with wine

YES! IS OFFERING A SPECIAL overnight excursion package that includes accommodation at the Oceanview Country Club. The P1,500 package, applicable for two (2) persons, includes one double occupancy room, breakfast for two and a special wine dinner at The Grill Room and Wine Cellars.

The seven-course dinner comes with a complimentary bottle of red or white wine, at your choice of two bottles of wine.

The seven-course dinner includes a selection of freshly baked seafood, breads, soup, salad, butter, cheese, rice, and a choice of French bread or Cordon Ro.

Guests can enjoy the special five-course dinner at the Grill Room and Wine Cellars. The price is P1,500, but it comes with a P1,000 gift voucher at Oceanview Country Club. The package includes a complimentary bottle of red or white wine, at your choice of two bottles of wine.



Guests can enjoy the special five-course dinner at the Grill Room and Wine Cellars.

included in the five-course dinner are selection of freshly baked seafood, breads, soup, salad, butter, cheese, rice, and a choice of French bread or Cordon Ro.

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Leave the release and indicate whether it is for immediate use or for a later date. Include your name and phone number.

Do not attach a photo of a future event or a timely report of an event that has just happened, it has a better chance than most of seeing print.

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THE CONSUMER

Be careful when using the ATM

By Linda B. Smith

WITH ANOTHER LONG BRIDGE crossing up, long trips are becoming again in the form of automated teller machines (ATMs).

Of course, that also means many of these machines are running out of cash.

But a very annoying small one recently happened here, if you did not get your money from the ATM, it might not be because it had no cash.

The machine, however, was forwarded to another by the bank.

The person thought it was just another error and he used a little bit when the cash dispenser showed the limit.

He found that the money had been withdrawn from his account.

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of ATMs is avoid being "scammed."

No goodwill here

If you've ever been a bit, like I did, you probably know that nobody runs the Christmas spirit as much as the banks.

My sister has been in the bank for a long time and she's seen a lot of people who don't run the Christmas spirit as much as the banks.

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Christmas wish for the music industry

"THE INQUIRER needs big business and commercial businesses to join in creative funds to create and support a program that will help discover, train and promote Filipino talent...from artists to music producers to high points of pop and rock and everything in between. David Pineda and Charles Pompaingo offer proof of Pinoy musical excellence. My wish is for us to join and work together for a greater plan. What to do with our vast pool of talent is what we need!"

Ryan Cayabyab, composer





Private party until December 31, 2009
1. Add 10% collection on delivery

Christmas Hologram Tumblers

Available in 4 designs



Buy a dozen Dunkin' Donuts and a Hologram Tumbler for P138



TAKE FIVE

BY PERFORMING in the New Year's Eve dinner show at Club-Restaurant, Ramon

By Pedro Concepcion

RAMON JACINTO is a businessman—owner of radio stations, musical instruments store and a house owner, among others. Now he's a public servant as well, having been recently appointed a director of Philscom and president of Philscom Holdings.

But it's a good guess that he's happy singing because in a recent show, he's always had to make time for a song gap, like his forthcoming New Year's Eve dinner show at the Club-Restaurant in Manila.

Tell us about the show.

It will be a dancing feast. The audience will have several dance shows. The intention is to bring in a sparkling New Year, so there will be a lot of dancing throughout.

My repertoire will consist of 700 dances of dancing moves, from the big band era to "La Vie En Rose."

How do you prepare for a live performance?

I try not to talk too much in the office during the day. I have a business to run. I'm not like other performers who have the luxury of taking it easy on performance day. I would drink with my band and take a 45-minute rest. If I can fit it in, I can even play nine holes of golf late in the afternoon just to get my energy up.

Have you been performing regularly on weekends for quite a while. Was it like this before you were called during martial law?

I was his agent in the '60s. Since my arrival from exile in 1966, I've been performing regularly for intimate audiences, something I truly enjoy.

Speaking of the '60s, Uncle Gusman of Juan de la Cruz says you were privileged because you had top-of-the-line instruments, and had famous bands like The Four Aces coming over to play with him and The Silhouettes.

That was the perception, because we were the first to have a complete set of brother guitars and amps that came out in 1961-62. We even had a Gibson, and many others had Fender's. I found The Silhouettes was known as the "Masters of the Philippines." When the Germans came here, Antonio Gallardo management got me drumming. Benito Trigueros and his players from Austin, Texas, too. The Silhouettes had look-alike colored guitar and Don Wilson on rhythm and they would sometimes crowd without a drummer and bass players.

Of late, you've been playing with various musicians like Myra Dela Cruz and Noel Cabangon. Do you exchange guitar-playing tips with other stars?

We don't really exchange playing tips but we lend off our another's guitar and amplifiers. It's refreshing to perform with other musicians.

What's the best thing you have gained from being a musician?

Goodness. When you perform, everybody is your friend.

'When you perform, everybody's a friend'

Drink nature in.

With Tropicana Gold, you're drinking gold from nature's selected locations. You're in with the gold giving nature's best. Combining the rich, pure goodness of 8 A-grade exceptional oranges, 100% natural, with water and 100% Orange Juice, Tropicana Gold is the perfect blend of nature's best.



Nothing Beats 100%

Because you always want to give 100% in every task, you'll love Tropicana Gold.



The gold contains the 100 pure goodness of 8 highly selected oranges which naturally are rich in vitamin C. It's a gold source of vitamin C, which is an essential antioxidant that helps support the immune system. In addition, 100% natural Pineapple juice is added, and this has vitamin A for better vision and eye health, and vitamin B6 for energy and metabolism. 100% Natural Gold contains 100% Orange Juice.

So when you drink a glass of Tropicana Gold 100%, you're not only drinking pure, you're drinking gold from nature.

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